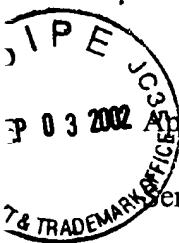


#19/E
9-15-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: M. Stavnes et al.

Serial No.: 09/054,986

Filed: April 3, 1998

For: Fuse Tube and Method
of Manufacture Thereof

Group Art Unit: 1772

Examiner: S. Nolan

Attorney Docket: SC-5285

) I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
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) DATE: AUG. 23, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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AMENDMENT E

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 1, 2002, the period for response to which having been extended to September 1, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 36 as follows:

36. (fourth amended) A method of fabricating an arc-quenching tube via the winding of a first fiber in one or more winding passes, the method comprising winding the arc-quenching tube such that the first fiber lays flat and does not overlap in each of the one or more winding passes whereby a predetermined suitable uniformity is achieved in the thickness of the tube, the method further comprising forming a predetermined taper within the arc-quenching tube wherein the predetermined taper defines a desired minimum wall thickness of the tube, the predetermined suitable uniformity being such that variations in the thickness of the tube are significantly less than the desired minimum wall thickness so as not to significantly impact or interfere with the desired minimum wall thickness defined by the predetermined taper.

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